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TORONTO TO TAMPA



❖ FEBRUARY, 1899 ❖ ❖ ❖

WITH

WILLIAM BRIGGS, Publisher
TORONTO, CAN.

THE CADETS



THE CADETS BEFORE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF TAMPA BAY HOTEL.

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INTRODUCTION.



LAST October, Col. T. T. Wright, the representative of Hon. W. D. Bloxham, Governor of Florida, visited Toronto, and invited Mr. S. W. Burns, Public School Trustee, and Major John T. Thompson, Drill Instructor of the Toronto Public Schools, to take a cadet corps of fifty boys from the public schools of this city to Tampa as guests of the State. The company was intended to take part in the Military Convention called by the Governor for February, 1899, for the purpose of considering a reorganization of the militia of the States, and for the purpose of introducing drill into the schools of Florida. Permission for the formation of the corps was granted by the School Board, and a Committee appointed. With the energetic co-operation of Mr. S. W. Burns and the Committee, Major Thompson succeeded in forming, equipping and uniforming the corps. The uniform is the regulation scarlet serge tunic, service cap, and blue serge trousers.



STEPHEN W. BURNS,

Chairman School Board, 1898, to whom the success of the trip is mainly due.



THE TAMPA TRIP.

IT is unnecessary here to dwell upon the preparations for the trip, the preliminary drilling, the growing interest of the public, and the eager anticipations of the cadets. The interest of the reader, we apprehend, will centre rather in the narrative of the journey itself. We therefore proceed with the relation of the interesting experiences of the cadets from the evening before leaving Toronto to their return.

The detachment of the Toronto Public School Cadet Corps for Tampa, Florida, met at St. Andrew's Hall on Friday Evening, February 3rd, and thence marched to the Armouries, where Lieut.-Col. Otter, District Officer Commanding Military District No. 2, inspected the contingent. The building was crowded with citizens eager to see the cadets, and it was with some difficulty that the company gained admittance to the spacious Armouries. The cadets could not do themselves or their instructor, Major Thompson, justice, as the people crowded into the centre of the floor and seriously hampered their movements. This, however, they bore good-naturedly. Lieut.-Col. Otter gave the cadets some good advice about their work, carriage, and conduct. Then, headed by the Forester's Bugle Band, they returned to their drill hall. Orders were given, and the company was dismissed until twelve-thirty Saturday.

"Move to the right in fours!—Form fours!—Right!—Left wheel!—Quick march!" The cadets had started for the Union Station. The band of the Foresters was waiting in the street below, and as the leading section of fours appeared in the doorway the drums took up the step. All along the route the streets were

lined with friends of the cadets, and many an exclamation of pleasure and surprise was heard as the boys marched through the streets.

Inside the station was a sea of faces, for the parents and friends of the cadets had secured admittance to see the train depart. The thrill of excitement which ran through the crowd, as word was passed from one to another that the boys were coming, broke out into cheers as the cadets entered the station with swinging stride.

Just before boarding the train the corps received a handsome silk Canadian ensign from The Union Jack Soap Company, literature from the Methodist Book Room, and checker-boards from The T. Eaton Co. Each cadet was given a cake of Union Jack Soap as he boarded the train—intimation enough surely of the need of cleanliness. The baggage and overcoats were formed into a barricade at the end of the car to exclude would-be visitors; so the cadets had to say good-bye through the car window.

Sharp at ten minutes past two the train drew out of the depot, amid the hearty cheers of the crowd. At Oakville, Cadet Jack Stewart received a box from the hand of a fair admirer. He was not allowed by his comrades to forget the young lady. Before the train had reached Hamilton the porter, "Alf" Hutty, had won the hearts of the boys, and was made a "Colonel" by them.

Lieut.-Col. McLaren and Capt. Laidlaw, of the noted 13th Regiment, along with Major O'Reilly, a retired officer, spoke to the cadets as the train stopped at Hamilton. These gentlemen complimented the cadets on their soldierly appearance, and exhorted them to remember who they represented. The next stop of any importance was at Paris, and a short time after that Woodstock was reached. Between Woodstock and London the boys were served with cocoa, and many of them divided their lunches with the boys of their section. Captain McKee, of the London High School Cadets, met the officers of the expedition and wished them every success during the trip.



JAMES L. HUGHES,
Inspector of Public Schools, Toronto.

The special car containing the superintendent of the road, Mayor Stevens of Port Huron, and members of the common Council, was attached to the train at Sarnia. These gentlemen welcomed the corps to the United States as the first body of armed Britishers entering the country since 1812. At Port Huron the cadets were marched up and down the platform, and were addressed by Mayor Stevens. In his remarks the mayor dwelt upon the warm feeling existing between the British Empire and the United States, expressing a wish for the continued good-will of the present time.

When the boys returned to the car all the berths were made up for the night, and for a time the fun was "fast and furious." No one was anxious to sleep at first, and during the night the pillows and sheets were exchanged. One of the sheets from the first section found its way down to section thirteen before morning. Curiosity caused a cadet to pull the bell-rope, and the train was brought to a standstill far from any station. Towards morning the cadets quieted down a little, and by three o'clock the sentries and the adjutant were the only cadets awake. There was no sleep after five o'clock for anyone, so that Bugler Otter's "Rouse" was not required to get the cadets out of the berths. All sections were in order before the train reached Chicago at 6.30 o'clock.

The mere mention of the fact that the Grand Trunk conveyed the cadets' car to Chicago is enough to make known to the people of Toronto and the West that the boys were well cared for during the first stage of the trip. The officials of the road did all they could to make the trip enjoyable to the party, and the whole contingent are greatly indebted to the Grand Trunk management.

The cadets were accompanied by Trustees S. W. Burns, J. M. Godfrey, and J. C. Clarke, and Inspector James L. Hughes. These gentlemen looked well after the boys' several wants.

CHICAGO.

Representatives of the Canadian Club met the corps at the Polk Street Depot, and these gentlemen, along with the members of the Toronto committee, acted as advance guard for the cadets as they marched to the Grand Pacific Hotel, where a splendid breakfast awaited the company. The weather was extremely cold, and the cadets were forced to wear their great-coats as they marched through the streets, and were greeted with cheers by former Canadians.

Sharp on the stroke of ten the Armour Cadets formed up and acted as an escort for the Toronto contingent as they marched through the streets of Chicago. The Cadet corps was headed by the Committee, and carried two handsome silk flags. It was a grand sight to see the Union Jack and "Old Glory" flying side by side as the companies marched to and from the Third Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Mr. McCaughan, formerly of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, preached an eloquent sermon on "There is none like that ; give it me." Many hundred citizens watched the cadets as they returned to the hotel.

In all nearly two hundred were gathered around the festive board of the Grand Pacific, and partook of its splendid provision. It was a sight never to be forgotten, for the grey uniforms of the Armour Cadets, intermingled with the scarlet serge of the Toronto corps, formed a sight pleasing to the eye. To many this sight predicted a closer and warmer relation between Great Britain and the United States. The arrangement was highly commendable, as through it the cadets became better acquainted, and many lasting friendships sprang up while the boys were seated around the tables.

Mr. William Gardner, President of the British American Publishing Company, delivered a very fine address of welcome, in which he spoke of the civilizing influence Great Britain had over the world. The Anglo-Saxon race had done a vast amount in aiding Christianity to spread its uplifting influences to the ends



Inspector James L. Hughes.

Trustee J. M. Godfrey.

Major John T. Thompson,
Commandant.

Trustee J. C. Clark.

Chairman S. W. Burns.

THOSE WHO WERE WITH THE CADETS AT TAMPA.

of the earth. Mr. Gardner claimed that an alliance of the British Empire and the United States would be an important step toward the time when war shall be no more. In closing he turned his attention to the flags, and showed that although the arrangement of the colors was different, still the flags were composed of the same colors, with the same symbolic meaning, and what was said of the one could be said of the other.

Mr. S. W. Burns replied on behalf of the Toronto Cadets, and echoed the sentiments of the boys in every word he uttered. The Rev. Mr. McCaughan then spoke to the guests. He expressed himself as being delighted at meeting the Toronto Cadets, wishing them a pleasant trip and a safe return home.

The Toronto Cadets exchanged their greatcoats for their rifles before starting out for the First Regiment Armouries. Cheer after cheer went up from the two thousand throats in the Armouries as the lads in red entered the Drill Hall. Lieut. Geo. Wright received the flag, on behalf of the cadets, from Mr. R. R. Donnelly, who made an address in which he called the Union Jack and "Old Glory" "the two best things afloat." The flag is a regulation army flag, and will be guarded by the cadets as a duty and an honour.

The drill of the company was faultless, and every movement was done like clockwork. At each manœuvre fresh rounds of applause were showered upon the cadets. Major Thompson might well have been proud of his selection. The Armour Cadets gave an exhibition, and received their share of the applause. Their work is excellent, but is altogether different from the drill manual of the British army. Toronto is to be favored with the presence of the Armour Cadets during the summer. They are a fine lot of young men, and are sure to make many friends.

From the Armouries the Toronto cadets marched to the Polk Street depot, followed by many admirers. Here they left their rifles, and were then dismissed until 8.45. Several of the cadets had friends waiting for them, who took them around to see the city. Those that remained in the spacious depot were entertained by the Canadian Club. Just before leaving the Windy City, the cadets were requested to sing "The Maple

Leaf" for a Canadian lady living in Chicago. Every cadet was on hand when "fall in" sounded, and at 9.30 the train of the Illinois Central drew out of the depot, while the cadets were saying good-bye to the Chicago boys from the rear platform of their car.

CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS.

The motion of the car gave all the rocking that was required to put the cadets to sleep, for the fifteen-mile march and other exercise had made their eyelids heavy. The sentries did not allow Bugler Otter to sleep overtime, but had him up some time before the "rouse" was sounded. To make sure that everyone was getting up, the sentries made a tour of the car. Breakfast was cleared away just before we reached East St. Louis, where Mr. M. H. Bohreer, District Passenger Agent for the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, boarded the train and was introduced to the cadets. Mr. Bohreer is a warm-hearted gentleman, one who makes friends everywhere, a man who always has the interests of his employers at heart, and one who is deserving of the highest confidence. It was not long before all the cadets were friends with this gentleman. As the train approached the bridge over "The Father of Waters," a cadet asked, "On which side of the bridge is the water?" A hearty laugh, in which he himself joined, was the answer. Bugler Eddie Otter called to the boys to look at the American war-ships, a name by which he playfully dignified the rear-wheel river boats. One thing perplexed the boys for some time, and that was the red color of the Mississippi River and the other rivers crossed later. The Union Depot of St. Louis was reached just before nine o'clock.

The president and officials of the Illinois Central deserve the highest praise for the way in which they treated the cadets on their way to and from St. Louis. No road could have shown more courtesy than was exhibited by those connected with the Illinois Central.

ST. LOUIS.

The cadets marched to the offices of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and were presented with a pretty souvenir pin of the Company, in combination with a Union Jack and Old Glory. In order to make through connections the contingent remained in St. Louis until evening. Many of the cadets visited the large Botanical Gardens and other points of interest. The officials of the Union Station allowed the car to remain in the depot throughout the day, and the boys inspected the whole depot from top to bottom. It is certainly the finest station in America, and St. Louis may well be proud of it.

Cadet A. Buckner, while out seeing the sights, was offered a good position, but could not accept it because of the Tampa Convention. During the afternoon a heavy snowstorm visited St. Louis, keeping the cadets from seeing as much of the city as they desired. Cadet Hargrave was fortunate, and yet unfortunate, for he met a winning young lady who not only charmed away his heart, but a military button as well. The cadets did not let him have any peace for a day or two. Mr. William Godfrey, an old veteran of the Civil War, and an uncle of Trustee Godfrey, was much impressed by the appearance and conduct of the boys.

Trustee S. W. Burns, determined not to allow the boys to go hungry, here took aboard a fresh supply of provisions. Ninety loaves of bread were required for each day's rations, besides meat and coffee. It is no small matter to feed fifty-six hungry boys. Bugler Eddie Otter was decidedly a favorite with the cadets, as he announced the forthcoming of meals. All the American soldiers that visited the car—and they were not a few—had Bugler Otter sound the British calls.

Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Clarke accompanied their husbands on the trip. The boys soon became attached to them, and both took a warm interest in the boys' pastimes. Mrs. Thompson was voted "the mother of the regiment," and filled her position as only a mother could.

ST. LOUIS TO MONTGOMERY.

The special car was attached to the Mobile and Ohio, and at 8.30 "The West India Flyer" left St. Louis, taking along with it the fifty-six boys in red. President E. L. Russell, of the Mobile and Ohio, who is one of the first men in his class, and who, through his ability and generosity, is one of the most popular railroad presidents, gave instructions to the officials to show the cadets every respect and courtesy. These instructions were generally carried out, and the cadets were treated right royally. During the evening, while the train was rolling along at the rate of fifty miles an hour, a concert was given in honor of Mr. Bohreer, who accompanied the boys to Tampa. After the concert the vocal solos were turned into sheet music (snoring).

When the train crossed the Ohio, after leaving Cairo, the captain and the adjutant were the only cadets, other than the sentries, that were awake. While the adjutant was going his rounds visiting the sentries, he was surprised to hear Corporal Hodgson call out, "They got away before I could stop them. I couldn't help it, sir." An investigation showed that the corporal was talking in his sleep. The steward got off the car at Union City to get a supply of hot water and failed to return. In the morning the cadets wanted to know whether he left the train or the train left him. Major Thompson and his officers came to the front, and by their efforts the cadets were well looked after during the rest of the trip. At Corinth, just within the borders of Mississippi, a collection was taken up for two small negroes who danced for the boys.

Mississippi and Alabama are certainly two great cotton states, for whole acres of cotton bales can be seen around the stations at any time of the year. A large portion of the country along the line of railroad is either swampy or uncultivated, so that in travelling through these states on the train you cannot form a correct idea of the country. The cadets were informed that before the Civil War broke out all the available property was under cultivation; since the war the land has been left to itself, and has run wild. The road will strike



MAJOR JOHN T. THOMPSON.

Commander of the Cadet Corps, and Director of Physical Culture in the Schools.

low ground, and for several miles little else but swampy land will be seen ; then, again, thousands of acres at a time, which are producing cotton in immense quantities, will be passed. The country lying between Tupelo and Tuscaloosa was the ground upon which some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War were fought. They were interesting as places of historic note. Inspector Hughes mistook Columbus for "White." He had forgotten that "white" and "colored" waiting-rooms are required in all southern stations, and are so designated by signs. The cadets enjoyed this joke at Mr. Hughes' expense very much indeed.

While travelling through this part of the country the question, "Has emancipation bettered the condition of the negro?" presents itself to the tourist. When you see their rude cabins, little better than cattle sheds ; when you observe their ignorance, and when you learn their wretchedness, your conclusion is that the slaves of the good masters have not been bettered by emancipation. The negroes are like birds which have been brought up in cages and then set free, knowing not how to look after themselves. The majority of the negroes of the south are dressed either in rags or in old clothes several sizes too large. The cadets did not see many of the better class negroes while journeying through the South. All the colored people are not as badly off as here described, for some are smart and industrious ; but the great majority of the southern negroes are slow and indolent. The colored attendants are all taken from the North, as they cannot make the southern negro work quickly.

MONTGOMERY TO TAMPA.

Two Pullman cars filled with North Dakota editors and their wives were awaiting the arrival of the "West India Flyer" at Montgomery. These editors were delegates of the North Dakota Press Association, making a tour through the Southern States. As the water-tanks had been dry since breakfast time, fresh water was taken aboard, and away the Plant System engine steamed, drawing behind it a long train of cars filled with



COLONEL RUSSELL,
President of the Mobile and Ohio.

human freight. The evening was spent in entertaining the editors and their wives. Among the chief numbers were, "Kentucky Babe," by Mrs. Thompson, "Mother of the Regiment"; a story by Mr. Bohreer, who had become very much attached to the boys; and a speech by Inspector James L. Hughes. Throughout the remainder of the trip southward visits were exchanged with the editors. This helped to remove the monotony of the life aboard train. Many souvenirs were exchanged with the cadets. Fifer "Baby" McFarlane was quite a favorite with everyone. Both he and Fifer Dolson were nearly kidnapped several times.

As the train journeyed onward through Georgia and neared Florida, a change was noticed in the surroundings. No longer had the cotton fields and the low, swampy lands the country to themselves, for acre after acre of young pine forest could be seen from the car windows. The trees are tapped for the gum somewhat as we tap the maple; but, instead of an auger hole, "boxes"—to use the technical term—are cut in the trees. The boxes are V-shaped, twelve inches wide, seven inches deep, and three inches in diameter. Just as soon as the boxes are cut, the crude gum begins to run and is ready for dipping. When the boxes on the trees have been "cornered," the hands are put to work "chipping" or cutting away the bark above the box. To keep up the flow of sap it is necessary to make fresh cuts. These cuts are made with a "hack," a small tool similar to a hatchet. The gum is collected in buckets, transferred to barrels, and conveyed to the still, where turpentine is distilled and resin is made from the residuum.

The cadets were somewhat disappointed when they saw the famous Suwannee River. Where the train crossed the river it was a dirty red stream of water no wider than the Humber.

At High Springs a stop of twenty minutes was made for lunch. The cadets had a short exercise upon the station platform, and were then dismissed. There was a mad rush for the lunch-room, but the editors had forestalled the cadets, and so the boys had to be content with fruit until they were given luncheon on the train. "Fall in" sounded, and in a minute the company had assembled. "Right turn!—To your car—Left



THE WEST INDIA FLYER WHICH CARRIED THE CADETS FROM ST. LOUIS TO MONTGOMERY.

wheel!—Quick march!” The bell rang and the cadets were on the road to Tampa once more. Palms and evergreens appeared on either hand, while the wild flowers of Florida showed their smiling faces above the tall grass. It was quite a revelation to see roses and other flowers of the Canadian summer blossoming in February. Magnolia trees are planted here as thickly as maples are along the Toronto streets. It was a delightful change to go from mid-winter to early summer weather without the chilly spring. The cadets were not long in realizing that they were

“Way down in the South, where Gulf breezes blow,
Where tall stately pines and the live oaks grow ;
Where soft summer nights are cooled by the dew,
And a summer sun shines the winter months through.”

The contingent reached Tampa Bay Hotel about five o'clock Wednesday after a pleasant run of over twenty-one hundred miles. Manager A. E. Dick, Col. T. T. Wright, Messrs. Wrenn, Lipsey, Jones, Thomson, and many other gentlemen welcomed the cadets to Tampa, Florida.

The Plant System, which took charge of the cadets at Montgomery, has been the means of showing that Florida in general, and the West Coast in particular, is the best winter resort in America. Mr. H. B. Plant, by his energy, perseverance, and foresight, has been the means of converting the wildernesses of Florida into luxuriant tropical gardens and flourishing fruit farms. Before the Plant system took hold of Tampa, some eight years ago, less than a thousand people were within its boundaries. Now over twenty-six thousand dwell within the city limits. This is one case from many hundreds in which Mr. Plant has peopled almost uninhabited parts. It is to him, and to him alone, that the credit must be given of converting the Gulf Coast and part of the centre of Florida into a load-stone, attracting tourists and settlers from all parts of the world. Mr. Plant has gathered around him a set of officials second to none. They are ever on the lookout for something to please the tourist and settler.



TAMPA BAY HOTEL—THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE MILITARY CONVENTION, FEB. 18TH, 1899.

TAMPA BAY HOTEL.

The Tampa Bay Hotel burst upon the vision of the eager cadets with all the external grandeur of its majestic outline and picturesque surroundings as the train approached from the east. The piazzas, the walks, the flowers, the palms, the water front, and a thousand other attractions, help to make Tampa Bay Palace the most complete, artistic, and luxurious hotel in America.

The cadets marched to the "Annex," a fine three-story building, and were given their rooms. Everything in the building is of the best. The rooms are large, airy, comfortable, with electric bells and lights, private bath-rooms, and beds that allure to repose. The halls are wide and well-lighted, and the carpets are as soft as moss, so that not the slightest sound was heard, even when the entire corps was marching in or out of the corridors. Soon after the arrival, Bugler Otter sounded "supper." The cadets formed up and marched to the hotel for their evening repast.

The rotunda of the hotel is indeed a spacious room, filled with works of art. Massive doors of beveled glass open from it into parlors, libraries, and writing rooms. Rich carpets cover the floor, and large handsome rugs from the East are laid throughout the grand reception room; paintings from the brushes of the old masters, or the studios of modern celebrities, decorate the walls; antique vases and bric-a-brac are placed in every nook and corner; divans and luxurious lounges offer themselves to the new arrival; while in the remotest corner is the business office, looking as if it were of the smallest importance.

The spacious corridor, or solarium, which leads to the dining-room, with its palms and sweet-scented flowers, its plants in exquisite vases, its easy chairs and lounges, its paintings and decorated art chinaware, baffles description. As the cadets marched noiselessly through the winding corridor, they disappeared from view. Sometimes a glimpse of a red coat between the broad green palm leaves would repay those who followed the cadets with their eyes, as the company marched to their meals.



THE ROTUNDA OF THE TAMPA BAY HOTEL.

While the cadets are enjoying themselves around the festive board, it will be well, perhaps, to speak of the dining-room. At the end of the solarium on one side is the breakfast-room, and on the other side the dining-room. The cadets used the breakfast-room for convenience. They sat at one long table, twenty-five on each side, with Major Thompson at the head and Adjutant Thompson at the foot. The band had a table for themselves, and the committee was seated at a third table. The dining-room is of Moorish architecture, and is no less artistic than the other parts of the Palace. During dinner the hotel orchestra fill the entire room with delightful music.

None of the cadets attended the opening meeting of the Military Convention, as the long journey had worn them out. Most of the boys wrote home during the evening from the ebony writing-room. In this room each piece of furniture is made of ebony, while the woodwork and other decorations blend in perfect harmony. Many of the chairs have been brought from France, and are said to have been made during the reign of Louis XIV.

Of the grand saloon one cannot say enough ; words fail to describe its glories. Let it suffice to say that Mrs. Plant, a queenly woman, with delicate taste and perception, designed the room and selected the fittings. Not a single chair or lounge but has a unique history ; not a painting or engraving but has been fashioned from a master brain ; not a cabinet or table but has something remarkable about it ; not even a vase or cup but has been moulded by some noted potter's hands—in fact all in the room is famous. The scarlet carpet, with its black lions rampant, covers the entire floor, and was made in France. It is a replica of one belonging to Louis XIV. This blends in with the draperies to complete the historic saloon.

Sharp at six o'clock the corporal of the guard had the bugler sound " Reveille." It was not long before the " Annex " was as lively as fifty-six cadets could make it. After breakfast the company drilled for an hour before marching to the Casino, where the Convention was to hold its second session.

In connection with the Casino is a theatre which seats over two thousand people. By a clever mechanical arrangement the floor is withdrawn, and a swimming pool 50 x 75 feet appears for the use of the hotel guests. At the session three delegates from Mexico were received. Major John T. Thompson was made an honorary delegate, much to the delight of his cadets. When the business was completed, President Daniel Butterfield called upon Rev. Dr. McCracken, of New York, to read a paper upon "Military Drill in Schools." The Doctor read an interesting paper, in which he gave figures which showed that only a very small percentage of the schools in the States taught military drill. In concluding, Dr. McCracken said: "If we wish to see a good example of military drill as taught in the schools of America we must go to either Canada or Mexico." The Convention then adjourned until 3 o'clock.

At 3.45 the cadets assembled at headquarters and marched to the tennis courts, where Governor Bloxham and his staff of officers inspected the corps. The company did the manual exercise, and showed the Governor and his staff how the British form into column, column of half companies, or column of sections, while on the march. Each movement was faultless, the commands being executed in quick time. The spectators showed their appreciation by giving the cadets round after round of applause.

Mr. M. H. Bohreer, of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, visited the boys at dinner time, and, in a few words, expressed how much pleasure he had experienced during his stay with the company. He was greatly touched by the little acts of kindness of the boys, and was grieved that business was going to separate them. It is hard to say whether Mr. Bohreer or the cadets felt the parting more, for the boys had struck up a lasting friendship with him.

A ball was given in honor of the Military Convention, at which the cadets appeared, several of whom mixed with the dancers, producing a brilliant effect with the rich dresses of the charming American women and the blue uniforms of the American officers. The music room, in which the dance took place, is a large



ONE OF THE DIVANS IN THE ROTUNDA.

circular room, with a polished floor, over which the feet glide with the utmost ease. Around the music room are broad galleries, in which the company may sit in the open air and watch the graceful dancers within.

On Friday, after physical drill with arms, the cadets marched to the Court House Square, where an immense crowd had gathered to see the young red-coats. School was dismissed, and the scholars watched with wonder and surprise the clever manœuvres of the boys. Mayor Bowyer and County Superintendent Buchholz inspected the boys, and then made short addresses, in which they complimented the cadets on their creditable performance and fine appearance. Those who witnessed the drill were profuse in their praises, and were very much impressed with the idea of military training in the schools. Before returning to the hotel three rousing British cheers were given for Tampa and the High School.

As the boys marched to dinner, Mrs. Plant, Mrs. A. E. Dick, Mrs. Dr. Morton, and Mrs. Swynard met them. The "Queen" of the Tampa Bay Palace presented each of the cadets with a pretty souvenir badge. Hon. S. G. McLendon, of Georgia ; Col. F. Q. Brown, of New York ; Col. T. T. Wright, of Nashville, and Col. A. E. Dick, of New York, dined with the cadets. All present drank the toast "The Queen and the President of the United States." "My Country 'tis of Thee," and "God Save the Queen," were sung in response to the toast. The Hon. S. G. McLendon and Col. F. Q. Brown made after dinner speeches, which were well received. To some it was a pleasing surprise to learn that Florida celebrated the Queen's birthday every year with a demonstration.

The cadets spent the afternoon in the "curio" stores, or in hunting up souvenirs of the trip. Four boys under command of Lieut. Geo. Wright rented bronchos, and were soon travelling about looking like a new set of cowboys. Long before supper time the cadets had five alligators prisoners within the walls of the Annex. While addressing the cadets, an American officer said : "I never was so much surprised as when I discovered that a body of British redcoats had captured Tampa. You have without doubt taken Tampa Bay by storm."

Over fourteen hundred people assembled in the Casino to witness the International Flag Drill and the Physical Drill with Arms, given by the cadets under the command of Major Thompson. Judging from the applause, the exhibition was a decided hit. The music from the Tampa Bay Orchestra added much to the entertainment. At the conclusion of this part of the programme, Prof. L. W. Buchholz introduced Inspector James L. Hughes. The Inspector's address was listened to with the closest attention.

An informal reception was held in the music room of the hotel during the evening, for the High School and the cadets. At ten o'clock the party marched over to the Annex, so that the young ladies could inspect the quarters. Everything about the rooms was as neat as a pin, which put another feather in the cadets' caps. The school girls prevailed upon the Major not to sound last post until 10.30, and even at that hour they were loath to leave. The cadets sang "Good Night, Ladies," at which the young ladies took the hint and allowed the cadets to escort them home. When Col.-Sergt. Goodchild returned he could not get into his room, as his room-mates had locked the door before retiring. After half an hour's attack the boys were awakened by a cannonade of orange peel, and the Col.-Sergt. was admitted to his sleeping apartment.

Caterer Roadknight was tried by court-martial for desertion. Mr. S. W. Burns was prosecuting attorney, while Mr. Godfrey was retained for the prisoner. After a long trial Captain Grant, president of the court, dismissed the prisoner upon a technicality. Those who witnessed the trial enjoyed it, for it gave them an insight into military life.

"Reveille" was sounded at 5.45 Saturday morning to give the boys plenty of time to have breakfast before leaving for Port Tampa at 7.30. The Port is a busy place, nine miles beyond Tampa. Besides being the terminus of the West Coast Division of the Plant System, it is the starting point for the steamship lines to Key West, Cuba, the West Indies and many other points. The steamship lines are also under the control of this able corporation, thus completing the most perfect system on the continent. The train runs out upon



HON. W. D. BLOXHAM AND STAFF. THE CADETS FORMED UP ON THE TENNIS COURTS OF THE HOTEL.

the pier, so that you may step from the train to the boat. This port is of historic interest, as the transports for Cuba with the American troops aboard sailed from here. Half-way down the pier, built out from it upon pilings, is the Port Tampa Inn, a charming little hotel for the tourist, especially for one who delights in fishing, boating, and hunting. Wild ducks swarm about the pilings. The fisher may set his lines from his bed-room window, and, while he is dressing, catch one or two fish, ring for the bell-boy, and have fish of his own catching cooked for breakfast. This is no fish story ; such things are not required in Florida. To know that the Plant System owns and manages the inn is to know that even to the smallest detail everything is of the highest order.

The *Margaret*, named after Mrs. Plant, the "Queen of the West Coast," was awaiting the cadets. It is a large handsome side-wheeler, plying between Port Tampa and points on the Manatee River. The commander, Captain White, is a typical sailor, with a face bronzed by the heat of the sun and the rough weather he has encountered. He lost no time in making friends with the cadets by relating his adventures during the late Spanish-American war. Among the curios shown by Captain White was a Mauser rifle taken from the Spanish army. The rifle is one of the latest issued to the vanquished army, and has an action similar to the Lee-Metford of the British army. Before reaching St. Petersburg, seven miles down the bay, Captain White was voted "a jolly good fellow" by the entire party. St. Petersburg is a flourishing town in the centre of the famous fishing district of Tampa Bay. While the boat was taking on passengers several fine sheepheads were landed by the fishers on the dock.

Farther down the bay, Egmont Key, the new quarantine station, where the American Government is erecting strong fortifications, marking the deep water channel into the Gulf of Mexico, was pointed out by the captain of the boat. Fortunately for the boys who had not been on salt water before, Tampa Bay was in a quiet mood. The day and the weather were perfect, and the cadets could not have selected a better day to accept Mr. Plant's kind offer.



THE CADETS AT BRAIDENTOWN.

Shortly after the steamer entered the Manatee River, the mail far Palma Sola was transferred to a small boat and the *Margaret* headed for Palmetta, where the boys entertained those on the wharf by singing several Southern airs. Opposite Palmetta is Braidentown. Here the cadets left the boat and captured the town by singing "I's Gwine Back to Dixie" and "My Old Kentucky Home, Good Night." The corps marched through the town to John Hudley's, where it was turned into the orange grove. It was a fine sight to see the cadets enjoying the luscious fruit, while the copious juice was running from their mouths in perfect streams. The heartiest thanks of the cadets were extended to Mr. John Hudley and his good wife for the treat. Three rousing cheers were shouted, and the cadets began to retrace their steps to the boat. Dr. Ballard stopped the boys and had each one pick an orange off a young tree about eight feet high. Mrs. Ballard gave each of the boys a sprig of yellow jasmine. The Doctor was delighted with the British cheers and the souvenir medals given him by the boys. At the wharf a group picture of the cadets was taken before they left the town. The boys cheered themselves hoarse as the boat left Braidentown, and then cured the hoarseness by partaking of the fish dinner prepared for them by the steward of the boat.

Mr. H. B. Plant, to whom the boys were indebted for the treat, planned the entire trip, and sent Messrs. Jones and Thomson along with the cadets to see that they were enjoying themselves. These gentlemen answered innumerable questions, and were delighted to interest the boys. It will be a long day before the cadets will forget either Mr. Jones or Mr. Thomson. They hold a firm grip upon the hearts of the cadets.

Mr. Plant has his officials picked from the first waters, so that everyone of them knows just what to do to make your sojourn pleasant.

The *Margaret* called in at Terra Ceia Bay on the homeward trip to take aboard oranges and several passengers. The cadets entertained the passengers with solos and choruses or with side jokes. Messrs. Jones and Thomson were called upon to sing a song or tell a story. Both did ample justice to themselves in

entertaining the entire party. By means of the steamer's flashlight a southern gentleman succeeded in taking several pictures. It was very dark before Port Tampa was reached, so that the search light was used to guide the boat to port. It is peculiar that there is no twilight in the south ; it becomes dark as soon as the sun sets. At seven o'clock the train reached the hotel, and the boys marched to supper, after which they spent the evening as they liked best.

Besides Messrs. Jones and Thomson, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Clarke, Capt. Thompson, father of the Major, and Messrs. S. W. Burns, Godfrey, Clarke, and Hughes enjoyed the trip to Braidentown. These gentlemen, as well as the cadets, had their faces burnt to a bright red by staying in the sun while the thermometer registered eighty-two. It was quite a jump from winter to summer.

Sunday morning the cadets attended divine service at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. In the afternoon many of the boys enjoyed a pleasant siesta, while others walked along the quiet streets. About four o'clock a light shower began to fall and increased in strength as the afternoon wore away. An invitation had been received to attend the Methodist Church in the evening, but the rain prevented the corps going in a body. Several of the cadets attended individually and enjoyed the service. The minister had been in Toronto during the Epworth League Convention, and had carried away with him pleasant recollections of the "Queen City." Those who did not go to church attended a sacred concert in the music room of the hotel. The solos and selections of the Tampa Bay Hotel Orchestra were soul-stirring.

During the night it turned colder, and a very few snowflakes greeted the boys in the morning. The cadets enjoyed the cold spell, but the inhabitants did not enjoy it. There were four degrees of frost and school was dismissed ; no one was working, owing to the cold. The negroes were shivering around fires at the street corners, with extra coats on and their ears wrapped up, while the cadets were going about without overcoats, filling their lungs with the fresh air and enjoying themselves generally. The southerners



THE GRAND SALOON IN TAMPA BAY HOTEL.

believed that the boys carried a charm to keep out the cold. Most of the baggage was packed up before the boys went down to pay a parting visit to the "curio" stores and the Tampa maidens.

At 11:45 the corps formed up and serenaded Mr. Plant. They sang songs and gave three rousing cheers for the President of the Plant System. Mr. Wrenn, on behalf of the President, thanked the boys for the honor conferred upon him, and hoped that the cadets had enjoyed themselves and had profited by their friendly visit to Florida. The Rotunda was next stormed and fell before the boys as they poured out the songs dear to all southern hearts. Mr. A. E. Dick, the hotel manager, spoke very nicely to the boys, and as he ceased speaking the cadets struck up "He's a jolly good fellow." The cheers at the close echoed and re-echoed through the corridors, and told that behind them were manly hearts. They were the spontaneous outburst of heartfelt gratitude.

Major Thompson held a rigid "kit and room" inspection after dinner. He did not wish to leave the "Annex" without knowing that everything was in as good order as when the cadets had entered the building. If some of the mothers and sisters of the cadets could have seen the neat rooms, the lectures on "neatness" would be things of the past. There was not a single room which had any ground for reproof. All baggage was transferred to the car and stowed away before three o'clock. The officers made a tour of the rooms and reported everything on board. It has since been learned that several hearts were left behind, so that now it is claimed that the search was not very thorough.

The High School girls were down to see the boys off, and it is claimed that Col.-Sergt. Goodchild and several of the cadets were "Hobsonized." We cannot throw any light upon the subject, and as the boys themselves are not inclined to give any information, the thing will remain a dark secret. When the Major saw the young ladies at the train he wanted the boys to sing, so he called them to order and asked: "Do the boys know 'The girl I left behind me?'" Fifer Dolson said, "No, Major, who is she?" It was several



VIEW OF THE PARK AROUND THE HOTEL.

minutes before the Major had heart enough to call the cadets to order. There was not a single cadet but regretted to leave the Hotel Palace, with its delightful surroundings ; Florida, with its luscious fruits ; Tampa, with its charming girls ; and the Plant System, with its cordial officials and servants. Lieut. Fairbairn put it in a few words when he said : “ Had we been members of the Royal family our reception could not have been better.

At 3.45 the train left Tampa Bay Hotel. As the cheers and good-bye shouts died away the singers reached the touching lines :

“ Weep no more, my lady,
Oh, weep no more to-day ”

of “ My Old Kentucky Home.” Mr. Jones, of the System, travelled the first hundred miles of the twenty-one hundred miles homeward journey.

Lieut. Wright's alligator was very lively, and in order to keep it in the box the Lieutenant was compelled to put his boots on the box. The train stood for five hours waiting while the water tank was thawed out. It was rather cold in Georgia, and the tanks had frozen. When the train reached Montgomery it was four hours late, and the next connection was Wednesday noon.

Montgomery is the northern terminus of the Western Division of the Plant System and the southern end of Montgomery Division of the Mobile and Ohio. The Plant System of railways, steamship lines, and hotels is the most complete system in the States. They own and operate in all some nine or ten hotels placed in the most inviting parts of Florida. When a tourist places himself in the hands of the Plant System he is given the best time he ever had in his life.

The cadets were anxious to get home as soon as they were well on the road, so Mr. Burns interviewed the agent of the Mobile and Ohio for Montgomery and in less than half an hour the cadets were flying along



THE MAIN CORRIDOR THROUGH WHICH THE BOYS PASSED EVERY DAY.

the road drawn by a special engine of the lucky number 13. To catch the Illinois Central at St. Louis the special had to make up seven hours lost time, which is a great deal in a twenty hour run.

It was just after dinner when the train stopped at Cairo for fifteen minutes. Cairo is just inside the State of Illinois, and looks over the Ohio river into the State of Kentucky. The bridge over the Ohio, with the trestle work, is over two miles long, so no wonder the boys were surprised at the magnificent structure. While some of the passengers were getting lunch the cadets stretched their limbs for the second time in forty-eight hours by marching up and down the station platform for five minutes. The boys had exercised at Montgomery in the same manner.

Mr. Burns telegraphed ahead to ask the Illinois Central to hold the train for half an hour. He did not expect to have his request granted, but the Illinois Central held their express at East St. Louis until the special of the Mobile and Ohio should arrive. It reached the depot at nine o'clock, having pulled up six and a half of the seven hours. The Mobile and Ohio and the Illinois Central granted to the cadets, without any hesitation, what some roads would have taken several days to arrange. These roads have things down so fine that they can run specials without any trouble. It was 7:30 when the cadets reached Chicago—scarcely sixty-four hours after leaving Tampa. Messrs. William Gardner, Harry Strong, William Small, Dr. Gallie, and many other representatives of the Canadian Club, met the boys at the Polk Street Depot and breakfasted them at the Leland. From the hotel the cadets went to the Union Stock Yards, where they inspected Swift & Company's establishment. After returning from the stock yards the cadets were shown through the Illinois Trust and Loan Building and then marched to the Board of Trade. Here they were almost deafened by the noise of the speculators before they left the magnificent building. The boys were dismissed for the afternoon.

Long before the New York Central started for Detroit over half the cadets were asleep in their berths. Those who came down to say good-bye to the boys smiled when they learned how many of them were

enjoying a peaceful slumber. The New York Central generously hauled the "Tampa boys'" car to Detroit by their 11.30 fast express.

A corporal's guard from the Melburne Light Guards escorted the cadets from the depot to the Armouries, where they left their rifles. The old Union Jack was flying at the head of the flag-staff, and the cannon were reversed in honor of the cadets' visit. Speeches of welcome were made by members of the council, and the cadets were taken to the Griswold House as guests of the city. Dep. City Treasurer R. W. Jacklin and Rev. Mr. Collins, of All Saints' Church, took charge of most of the boys and showed them the points of interest about Detroit. Captain Grant was one of a few to visit Windsor. He and his followers were well received in the "Baby City."

The cadets assembled at the Griswold House for tea and then marched to the Light Guard Armouries, where a reception was held. The city papers had announced the reception, and many citizens were present. The band of the Light Guards played several selections, among the number being "God Save the Queen" and "The Star Spangled Banner." A number of officers turned out in uniform to receive the cadets. The entire company of the Guards were present and told the cadets many interesting stories about the recent war. R. W. Jacklin, who had taken charge of the reception, called upon the Guards for a drill, and afterwards asked the Toronto Cadets for an exhibition. The Guards are the smartest looking soldiers the cadets saw during their trip, and their work is very creditable. Capt. Waldo has a good company under his command. The drill of the Guards had put the cadets on their mettle, and they executed the commands of Major Thompson with great exactness. The commands were all but drowned by the applause of the spectators. A slight rain began to fall about 10 o'clock, but it did not prevent the Guards from escorting the Toronto Cadets to the station. At the depot the cadets gave the balance of the souvenir medals to the Light Guards and their friends. The Canadian Pacific Railway left for Toronto at 11.30 with fifty-six jolly cadets.



THE AUDITORIUM OF THE CASINO.

As the train pulled off the ferry the boys began to sing "The Land of the Maple," and then retired for the night. Although it was only 4:30 in the morning when the cadets reached London, there were several at the depot. Besides the aldermen, and Capt. McKee, of the London High School Cadets, Messrs. Jones and Grant, delegates from Toronto, were awaiting the arrival of the cadets. The officers were called at once, and received these gentlemen, but the boys were not awakened until after five. As guests of the council the cadets went to the Tecumseh House for breakfast. On returning to the train several of the High School cadets cross-questioned the boys about the trip to the Sunny South. Cadet Eddie Cousins had a hunt after his alligator before the train left, and he did not enjoy the search. The train left for home shortly after nine, and, without any further interesting incidents, the cadets reached the Queen City.

RECEPTION HOME.

Our boys began to sing "Home, Sweet Home" as the train pulled into the station, and at the same time the Grenadiers' Band, as if by the stroke of the enchanter's wand, struck up the well-known strains. Both were somewhat surprised to learn when the train stopped that the other was in perfect unison. The platform was lined, as were the streets, with citizens wishing to catch a glimpse of the "Tampa boys," and as the lads fell in many a kiss was exchanged. The Grenadiers' Band and the Foresters' Bugle Band led the cadets to the Walker House, where a reception dinner was given them by the citizens. From the Walker House to the Armouries the boys marched ankle deep in slush and mud. Although the streets were in such poor condition, thousands flocked to see the boys that had captured Chicago, Tanipa, Detroit, and other important places. The bands took turns in playing music for the boys, while several hundred school-boys with Union Jacks followed the cadets as they wended their way through the streets. At the Armouries the parents of the cadets were awaiting their arrival. While the company was drilling the people stood back



THE ARMOURIES, TORONTO.

from the ropes, but the instant the cadets were told to "fall out" for ten minutes, the crowd rushed upon the boys. Major Thompson experienced some trouble in reforming the ranks and marching the company to St. Andrew's Hall. The cadets' baggage was waiting for them, and after it had been sorted out the company was dismissed.

The trip was over, and had become a thing of history. As the last cadet left the hall the Major gave a sigh of relief, for there had been great responsibility resting on his shoulders. It is almost incredible to believe that fifty-six boys would have been taken over forty-two hundred miles without a mishap, and there is a great deal to be thankful for in their safe return home. Mr. S. W. Burns and the Committee have fifty-six sturdy boys as lasting friends.



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